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American Spaces

BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

April 2023

With nearly 600 locations, ECA's Office of American Spaces engages people worldwide through programming and resources. American Spaces support U.S. foreign policy goals and strategically promote public diplomacy.

As always, thank you for sending in your comments and suggestions to americanspaces@state.gov. We hope you enjoy this issue!

Celebrating Heritage!

Programming for All

The Office of American Spaces Newsletter seeks to provide content for future programming--while also amplifying the great work of our colleagues and partners globally.

In this issue, we are highlighting upcoming months-long programming options: **May** is [Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#) and [Jewish American Heritage](#)

Month and **June** is [LGBTQIA+ Pride Month](#) as well as [Caribbean-American Heritage Month](#).

Additionally, this month, we are recognizing the great work of American Spaces staff around the world and celebrating the opening of a new American Corner! Check out the focused resource guides as well as potential speakers from the U.S. Speaker Program and films from U.S. Agency for Global Media/Voice of America. More content is also linked on the [American Spaces website!](#)

From the Field:

Madagascar



American Corner Tana Ribbon Cutting!



American Corner Tana Zoom Booth!

Burundi



American Corner Kamenge English Club converses about "The Harlem Renaissance!"

Ghana



American Spaces Ghana Women in Motion Film Festival!

To learn more about these recent programs of note, please click on the photos to jump to the full stories!

Kudos and Congratulations!

Public Diplomacy Council of America (PDCA) Award Winners

The Public Diplomacy Council of America (PDCA) announced the recipients of the annual Awards for Achievement in Public Diplomacy. Two award-winners are part of the American Spaces family: U.S. Embassy Kyiv's PD American Officers and U.S. Embassy Tirana's Mobile American Corner Team. Congratulations to all the winners and especially:

REPS Cynthia Nichols and her U.S. Embassy Kyiv colleagues:
Geoff Anisman, Lottie Baker, Glen Davis, Brittani DiPaolo, Luke

Meinzen, Tim Standaert, and Scott Whitmore. As their nominator stated: "These officers have demonstrated unprecedented nimbleness and flexibility while continuing to reach Ukrainian audiences, while also demonstrating to the rest of the world America's continued support of and unity with Ukraine."

Amanda Roberson, Ina Begotaraj, Antonio Cakshiri, and Katerina Hatija, Mobile American Corner Team, U.S. Embassy Tirana: This team planned and executed an innovative way to reach Albanians across the country with a U.S.-branded bus and a wide range of on-site outreach programs that reflected bonds between the people of the United States and Albania. The Office of American Spaces would also like to recognize **REPS Sarah Ziebell** for her collaborations with the **AC Tirana** team!

Farmcraft Regional Leads



The Office of American Spaces would like to recognize the selected [Farmcraft](#) Regional Team Leads! We are appreciative of their work assisting participants around the world plan, play, and learn this season!

Ashfaqur Rahman, EMK Center, Dhaka, Bangladesh (NEA)

John Atick, America House Jerusalem (SCA)

Mario Clemente, ICHN, Santiago, Chile (WHA)

For more Farmcraft news, please visit the American Spaces [homepage](#) or contact **Lynne Scheib** (scheibld@state.gov).

U.S. Speaker Spot

Featuring upcoming speakers available for virtual programs in partnership with the [Office of the U.S. Speaker Program](#).



Still seeking a speaker for [World Press Freedom Day](#)? The U. S. Speaker Program has arranged for **Luis Botello** to speak with virtual audiences.

To learn more about Mr. Botello and other wonderful speakers available for upcoming programming, please read the [full story on the American Spaces website](#).

U.S. Culture:

Cities Summit, April 26-28, Denver, Colorado

Under the theme “Global Challenges, Local Solutions,” the **Cities Summit of the Americas** will join government leaders from cities, states, and other municipalities from across the Americas with a diverse and inclusive group of stakeholders. These include representatives of civil society, academia, youth, arts and culture, and Indigenous and previously underrepresented groups. Participants will build partnerships and advance regional cooperation in a wide variety of subject areas, from migration to climate change.

The **Office of American Spaces** will have a booth which will be staffed by **REPS Malore Brown** and **Field Support Chief Stacia Clifton**.

As Secretary of State Blinken said, “cities are the engines of opportunity and ingenuity in the United States. They’re where challenges tend to emerge first, and solutions are often forged quickest.”

See these words in action by following the **#CitiesSummit** in Denver! <https://www.citiessummitoftheamericas.org/>

Faces of American Spaces:

Focus on Field Support



The **Field Support Team** of the Office of American Spaces provides a critical link between Washington and our Spaces around the world.

From American Spaces Support Funds (ASSF) to fielding requests for new Spaces and responding to frequent queries and numerous questions, this team works diligently to provide outstanding service.

The above photo was taken during a recent team celebration. From left to right: **Barbara Silberstein, Stacia Clifton, and Desiree Williamson** enjoying a brief respite with a new feline friend at the "Crumbs & Whiskers" Cafe last month.



Field Support has since welcomed its newest member, **Pam Rasmussen**, who most recently served in ECA's Office of Citizen Exchanges & will cover EAP. Please help us welcome Pam!

Did you know?

...that the **U.S. Agency for Global Media/Voice of America (USAGM/VOA)** has many resources, videos, and programs in various languages that might be appropriate at your American Space? And we make it easy to find these outstanding resources with a [link](#) right on the American Spaces webpage!

For upcoming programming, please consider using two of USAGM's 52 documentary series (which are available on YouTube):

[*Farming for the Future*](#) explores the conflicts within a family of dairy farmers and in society as they strive towards a more sustainable future for agriculture. (Perfect for posts participating in **Farmcraft!**)



[*Cactus Power*](#) which explores the game changing teamwork of Miguel and Rogelio AND their innovative biodigesters--fueled by nopal and organic waste--which are transforming Mexico's energy landscape.



And please let us know when you feature these--or other--USAGM programs at your Space! We love to hear success

stories!

Featured Toolkits and Resources:

We would like to highlight a few key resources for potential upcoming programs:

World Intellectual Property Day (April 26) ([toolkit](#))

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month (MAY) ([toolkit](#))

Jewish-American Heritage Month (MAY) ([toolkit](#))

Space Diplomacy Week (April 30 - May 6) ([toolkits](#))

Air Quality Awareness Week (May 2 - 8) ([toolkit](#))

World Press Freedom Day (May 3) ([official site](#)) and [links](#) to 30th anniversary celebrations around the world!

LGBTQI+ Pride Month (JUNE) ([toolkit](#))

Caribbean-American Heritage Month (JUNE) ([toolkit](#))

[New Resources to Check Out!](#)

[Roadtrip Nation](#): This new resource (shared by REPS **Ana Ayala de Barbosa** and **Sarah Ziebell**) was featured at the 2023 SXSW.edu Conference. From podcasts to videos, it highlights career explorations of young adults around the United States. What a way to explore job options and pathways while learning about U.S. culture. Take a (career) road trip with Roadtrip Nation!

[Mind Over Matter](#): AAPI Mental Health Collection from the Smithsonian Institution's **[Asian Pacific American Center](#)**. This site--part of a large collection of toolkits, curriculum guides and other information--provides resources appropriate for adult (and high school aged) audiences about mental health with a focus upon AAPI community members.

[The Bias Inside Us](#): **Resources about implicit bias** These resources spark conversations about the meaning and real-world impact of implicit bias. Including an educator guide, links to activities, as well as posters, this Smithsonian

[toolkit](#) provides context around bias, starter questions, and articles about bias. Thank you to REPS **Marcy Carrel** for highlighting this opportunity!

Have a great free resource that you use to develop programs at your American Space? Please let us know (americanspaces@state.gov) and we may feature it in a future issue of this newsletter!

Calendar of Events

To provide a further look ahead for potential programming purposes, we are featuring the Office of American Spaces Calendar with dates 3-4 months out here. As always, the full calendar is available on the American Spaces [website](#).

April is Jazz Appreciation Month ([official site](#)) and Arab-American Heritage Month ([toolkit](#))

April 30 - May 6 is Space Diplomacy Week - see [toolkits](#)

April 2: World Autism Day - see [official site](#)

April 4: International Mine Awareness Day - see [official site](#)

April 6: International Day of Sport for Development and Peace - see [resources](#)

April 7: World Health Day - see [resources](#)

April 10: Siblings Day - see [official site](#)

April 12: International Day of [Human Space Flight](#), [Photo Exhibition](#), and [English Resources](#)

April 18: International Day for Monuments and Sites - see [official site](#)

April 20: Look-Alike Day - see [official site](#)

April 22: Earth Day See [official site](#)

April 23: English Language Day ([official site](#)) and National Library Week Begins ([official site](#))

April 24: World Immunization Week Begins - see [official site](#)

April 25: World Malaria Day - see [official site](#)

April 26: World Intellectual Property Day - see [toolkit](#)

April 30: International Jazz Appreciation Day

April 30: Space Diplomacy Week (April 30 - May 6) ([toolkits](#))

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month ([toolkit](#)) and Jewish-American Heritage Month ([toolkit](#))

May 2: Air Quality Awareness Week (May 2 - 8) - see [toolkit](#)

May 3: World Press Freedom Day - see official [site](#) for programming information

May 4: Star Wars Day - see [official site](#)

May 14: Mother's Day - see [holiday description](#)

May 15: Chocolate Chip Day ([site](#)) and International Day of Families ([official site](#))

May 17: International Day Against Homophobia Transphobia and Biphobia - see [site](#) and [toolkit](#)

May 20: World Bee Day - see [official site](#)

May 21: Founding of the American Red Cross - see [toolkit](#) and [articles](#)

May 22: National Maritime Day - see [official site](#)

May 28: Hamburger Day - see [official site](#)

May 29: Memorial Day - see [Share America Articles](#)

June: LGBTQI+ Pride Month ([toolkit](#)) and National Caribbean-American Heritage Month ([toolkit](#))

June 1: Global Day of Parents - see official [site](#)

June 3: World Bicycle Day - see official [site](#)

June 4: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression - see official [site](#))

June 5: World Environment Day - see programming [toolkit](#)

June 8: World Ocean Day (official [site](#)) and Best Friends Day (official [site](#))

June 12: World Day Against Child Labour - see official [site](#)

June 14: National Flag Day - see official [site](#)

June 15: Elder Abuse Awareness Day - see official [site](#)

June 17: The World Day to Combat Desertification - see official [site](#)

June 18: Father's Day - see official [site](#)

June 19: Juneteenth ([toolkit](#)) and International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (official [site](#))

June 20: World Refugee Day - see official [site](#)

June 26: International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (official [site](#) and [toolkit](#))

June 27: Micro-, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (official [site](#) and [toolkits](#))

June 29: International Day of the Tropics - see official [site](#)

June 30: Meteor Watch Day - see official [site](#)

July 1: International Joke Day - see official [site](#)

July 4: US Independence Day - see official [site](#)

July 8: Video Games Day - see official [site](#)

July 11: World Population Day - see [Health and Environment Resources](#)

July 15: World Youth Skills Day - Here are STEAM resources and resources for [entrepreneurship](#)

July 17: World Emoji Day - see official [site](#)

July 18: Nelson Mandela International Day - see official [site](#)

July 20: Space Exploration Day

- [NASA Kids' Club](#)
- [NASA for Educators](#)
- [NASA American English language resources](#)

July 26: Americans with Disabilities Act - see official [site](#)

July 28: Milk Chocolate Day (official [site](#)) and World Hepatitis Day (official [site](#))

July 30: World Day against Trafficking in Persons - see [toolkit](#)

Thanks to all of you who have shared your programming ideas and highlights with your colleagues through our American Spaces FB page. You can continue to share your news and information by emailing us at AmericanSpaces@state.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Karlene Noel Jennings at JenningsKN@state.gov.

To add someone to this newsletter, email us at AmericanSpaces@state.gov.





American Spaces

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